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The six hundred and twenty-first meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, London, on 15th December, 1964.

Chairman: Mr. R. S. R. Fitter

Members present 29; Guests 6.

Dr. D. W. Snow spoke on the displays of certain manakins (Pipridae), illustrating these remarkable phenomena with films and recordings.

Notes on a small collection of birds made in Eastern Nigeria

by William Serle

Received 20th October, 1964

In November 1959 Gilbert Nkwocha, my former bird skinner, made a collection of birds in Eastern Nigeria, in the rain forest belt, at Umuagwa 5° 20′ N, 6° 55′ E, altitude about 100 feet.

The 53 specimens, belonging to 34 species, were all taken in the forest interior in primary or second growth. Of special interest are the following:–

Phoeniculus bollei bollei (Hartlaub).

1 adult ♂. One of two in a dead tree in the primary forest. Recorded for the first time from Eastern Nigeria.

Scoptelus castaneiceps castaneiceps (Sharpe).

1 adult ♂. Wing 104 mm.; tail 173 mm.; exposed culmen 34 mm.; tarsus 18 mm. Head pale brown.

One of two in the forest tree-tops. The range of the nominate race is extended eastwards and the species is recorded for the first time from Eastern Nigeria.

Trichophorus calurus calurus Cassin.

3 adult ♂, 1 adult ♀.

In the *Ibis* 1957: 632–633 I discussed the view (Berlioz, *Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat.* 1954: 68 and 1955: 189) that the *Trichophorus calurus* population comprises two sibling forms, a view with which White (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 76, 1956: 158) and Rand (*Fieldiana, Zool.*, (1958) 35: 217–219) are in agreement. In the light of their remarks I have re-examined my series of *T. calurus* together with a further 16 skins collected in 1955–1959, in all 72 adults, all from Eastern Nigeria and British Cameroons.

I find that the series, judged visually, can be divided into a slender-billed and a stout-billed group. The measurements of the breadth of the bill at the nostrils confirm the visual judgement, the two groups, in respect of this measurement being separate, without intermediates. Other bill measurements, namely the depth at the nostrils and the length of the culmen show a difference in range but with some overlap. The wing lengths of the two groups do not differ significantly. Measurements in millimetres of the two groups are as follows:—

Stout-billed group

Length of culmen: 36 ♂, 17–21; 23 ♀, 17–20.
Breadth of bill at nostrils: 36 ♂, 6–8; 23 ♀, 6–7½.
Depth of bill at nostrils: 36 ♂, 6–7; 23 ♀, 6–7.
Wing: 36 ♂, 82–93; 23 ♀, 78–88 (1 94).

Slender-billed group

Length of culmen: 10 ♂, 15–17; 3 ♀, 15–17.
Breadth of bill at nostrils: 10 ♂, 5–5½; 3 ♀, 5.
Depth of bill at nostrils: 10 ♂, 5–6; 3 ♀, 5–6.
Wing: 10 ♂, 81–90; 3 ♀, 80–81.

In this series there is considerable individual variation in colour. There are no clear-cut colour differences between the two groups. In the slender-billed group the crown tends to be greyer and less brown, the green of the mantle and the yellow of the under parts tend to be duller in shade, and the under tail-coverts tend to be more buff-coloured and less yellow.

Birds of the two groups could not be distinguished in the field. The notes made at the time the specimens were collected reveal no differences in their habits. All 13 slender-billed birds were collected in primary or secondary forest, in all cases but two from mixed bird parties or from parties of their own species. Six stomachs examined contained insects only. All 59 stout-billed birds were likewise collected in primary or secondary forest and all were members of mixed bird parties or of parties of their own species. Of 35 stomachs examined 34 contained insects only and one contained insects and fruit.

I think it has still to be proved that the two groups are biologically separated.

Dyaphorophyia tonsa Bates.

2 adult ♂, Wing 54, 53 mm.

In primary forest. Both were members of mixed bird parties. A rare species.

Macrosphenus kempi flammeus Marchant

1 ♂. Wing 56 mm.; tail 31 mm. Testes undeveloped. Skull cartilaginous.

In colour intermediate between the juvenile and adult plumage. The greenish upper parts of the immature dress are retained, but much of the yellow wash of the under parts has been lost, and the flame colour of the adult flanks is incompletely developed. A rare form.

Dicrurus adsimilis coracinus (Verreaux.)

1 adult ♂.

Clearly the race *D. a. coracinus*. A series of seven *D. adsimilis* collected

further north in Eastern Nigeria at Ishiagu, 5° 57′ N, 7° 35′ E, Mamu, 6° 10′ N, 7° 10′ E, and Enugu, 6° 25′ N, 7° 30′ E, belong to *D. a. atactus* Oberholser (Serle, 1957, *Ibis* 99: 658) as do one male and one female collected by me still further north at Ugugu, 7° 5′ N, 7° 30′ E, Kabba Province, and previously unrecorded.

In this part of West Africa *D. a. atactus* appears to occupy a wide belt of the savanna immediately to the north of the rain forest. It is probable that this belt will eventually be shown to extend westwards through Benin and Ondo Provinces to link up with the Upper Guinea population of *atactus* from Lagos westwards (Peters, 1962, *Check-list of birds of the World*, vol. 15, p. 140).

Chlorophoneus multicolor multicolor (Gray).
1 adult ♂. An example of the rare black-chested phase.

The remaining specimens are listed hereunder:—
Cuculus solitarius solitarius (Stephens). 1 adult ♀.
Cuculus cafer gabonensis Lafresnaye. 1 adult ♂.
Tockus camurus subsp. 1 adult ♀.
Gymnobucco calvus calvus (Lafresnaye). 1 adult ♂, 1 adult ♀.
Mesopicos pyrrhogaster (Malherbe). 1 adult ♂.
Smithornis rufolateralis rufolateralis Gray. 2 adult ♂.
Illadopsis rufipennis rufipennis (Sharpe). 1 immature ♀.
Illadopsis fulvescens iboensis (Hartert). 2 adult ♂.
Bleda syndactyla multicolor Bocage. 1 adult ♂.
Chlorocichla simplex (Hartlaub). 1 adult ♀.
Ixonotus guttatus guttatus Verreaux. 1 adult ♂.
Phyllastrephus icterinus icterinus (Bonaparte). 2 adult ♂.
Andropadus ansorgei ansorgei Hartert. 1 adult ♂, 1 adult ♀.
Andropadus curvirostris curvirostris Cassin. 1 adult ♂.
Erythrocercus mccallii mccallii (Cassin). 1 adult ♂. 1 adult ♀. 1 immature unsexed.
Terpsiphone smithii neumanni Stresemann. 1 adult ♂, 1 adult ♀.
Macrosphenus concolor (Hartlaub). 1 adult ♂, 1 adult ♀.
Dicrurus atripennis Swainson. 1 adult ♂.
Oriolus brachyrhynchus laetior Sharpe. 1 adult ♀.
Onychognathus fulgidas hartlaubii Hartlaub. 1 adult ♀.
Cyanomitra cyanolaema octaviae Amadon. 1 adult ♀.
Anthreptes collaris nigeriae White. 1 immature ♀.
Anthreptes fraseri cameroonensis Bannerman. 2 adult ♂, 2 immature ♂, 2 adult ♀.
Malimbus rubricollis rubricollis (Swainson). 1 adult ♂.
Malimbus malimbicus nigrifrons (Hartlaub). 1 adult ♂.
Malimbus scutatus scutopartitus (Reichenow). 2 adult ♂.
Nigrita canicapilla canicapilla (Strickland). 1 adult ♀.

Notes on the nomenclature of the whistling-thrushes

by H. G. Deignan

Received 18th November, 1964

In an age of servile dependence on the standard works of ornithological reference, it seems to me important to correct as soon as possible certain